

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 EB-07 COM-02 CIEP-01

STR-04 /078 W

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R 131735Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5141

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, GW, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD INTERVIEW: EUROPE, FRG

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED LE FIGARO

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NOVEMBER 12, GISCARD UNDERLINED CONTRIBUTIONS HE HAS

MADE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AND HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARD THAT GOAL. HE ALSO STRESSED CRUCIAL ROLE OF FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS IN ORGANIZING EUROPEAN UNION. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW HAS BEEN SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTTEL. THIS CABLE CONTAINS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF KEY STATEMENTS MADE BY GISCARD ON EUROPE AND ON FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION SUGGESTING THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE WAS NOT PROGRESSING, GISCARD RESPONDED: "EUROPE IS PROGRESSING. THAT IS DIFFICULT TO ADMIT BECAUSE ITS PROGRESS IS NEITHER SPECTACULAR NOR VERY BRILLIANT, BUT IT IS PROGRESSING. REMEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN I PROPOSED THE PERIODIC MEETING OF A EUROPEAN COUNCIL, ONE WONDERED IF SUCH A MEETING WOULD EVER TAKE PLACE. TODAY THESE MEETINGS OF CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT ARE SO ACCEPTABLE THAT, WHEN QUESTIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE COME UP AMONG THE NINE, THEY ARE REFERRED TO THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING. THAT PROVES THAT THE INSTITUTION HAS COME ALIVE ON ITS OWN ACCOUNT."

3. OTHER EC INITIATIVES: ASKED WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED OTHER EUROPEAN INITIATIVES, GISCARD RESPONDED, "I BELIEVE THAT IT IS FIRST NECESSARY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE INITIATIVES WE HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN. FOR EXAMPLE, NEXT YEAR WE MUST TAKE A FORMAL DECISION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. MOREOVER, WE CAN EXPECT A REPORT CONCERNING EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, ON WHICH WE MUST TAKE A DECISION. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL NOT ADVANCE IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE NEXT (EUROPEAN) COUNCIL, I WILL ASK ONCE AGAIN THAT A EUROPEAN PASSPORT UNION BE CREATED. THAT SEEMS SYMBOLIC, BUT IT AFFECTS THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE OF THE CITIZENS."

4. FRANCE/FRG: GISCARD SAID THAT CLOSE FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS CORRESPOND TO A REALITY AND TO A NECESSITY. "THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE IN AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH GIVES THEM A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MEANS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION AND LEADS THEM TO HAVE PARALLEL ATTITUDES WITH REGARD TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS. WITH REGARD TO THE

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ORGANIZATION OF EUROPE, FRANCE AND GERMANY HAVE POINTS
OF VIEW THAT ARE VERY CLOSE. I CONSIDER THAT IN THIS
THERE IS AN IMPORTANT STIMULUS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
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EUROPE." ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN CLOSE FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS AND FRENCH RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, GISCARD SAID, "... THE POLICY OF FRANCO-GERMAN RAPPROCHEMENT IS NOT NEW. IT WAS INITIATED IN 1963 BY GENERAL DE GAULLE. WHILE WE ARE IN BONN OR PARIS WE CANNOT HAVE A POLICY OF RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THEN, WHEN WE GO TO MOSCOW, OR THE SOVIETS COME TO PARIS, IGNORE THAT POLICY OR PRETEND TO IGNORE IT. ONE DOESN'T BUILD A FOREIGN POLICY ON DISSIMULATION TOWARD THE EAST WITH REGARD TO WHAT ONE DOES WITH THE WEST, OR FOR THAT MATTER (DISSIMULATION) WITH THE NORTH WITH REGARD TO WHAT ONE DOES WITH THE SOUTH. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS TRUE THAT FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION IS AN ELEMENT ESSENTIAL TO THE ORGANIZATION OF EUROPE AND THAT WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN IT AS SUCH."

5. COMMENT: IT IS A PARADOX OF EUROPEAN POLICY THAT, PRECISELY AT THE MOMENT WHEN OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCES CONSPIRED TO FRUSTRATE MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION, FRANCE ELECTED A NEW PRESIDENT WHO WAS PREPARED TO PURSUE MODEST -- YET NONETHELESS REAL -- INITIATIVES REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONFEDERAL EUROPE. GISCARD RECOGNIZES THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIPE FOR DRAMATIC OR AMBITIOUS INITIATIVES TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE. NEVERTHELESS, HIS EUROPEAN POLICY -- AS CATALOGUED ABOVE AND ELSEWHERE -- SUGGESTS THAT HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE GRADUALLY AND PRAGMATICALLY TO NUDGE FRANCE AND THE EC-EIGHT TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION. WITH REGARD TO FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS, THIS INTERVIEW CONFIRMS GISCARD'S POLICY SINCE COMING TO POWER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO: THE FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP IS THE KEY TO FRENCH POLICY IN EUROPE.

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